

Rhodora

JOURNAL OF

THE NEW ENGLAND BOTANICAL CLUB

Vol. 7

August, 1905

No. 80

LETTER OF DR. ASA GRAY TO LEWIS D. DE SCHWEINITZ.

THE following unpublished letter was written by Dr. Gray while he was teaching in Bartlett's School in Utica, New York, and is among the earliest of his botanical letters. It may be of interest to the readers of RHODORA as showing his early enthusiasm and aspirations. I am indebted to Dr. George de Schweinitz, a grandson of Lewis de Schweinitz, for the privilege of examining some of his grandfather's correspondence and of publishing such of it as seems desirable. There was an appendix to the letter containing a closely-written list of about 300 species of desiderata. De Schweinitz died in February of 1834, and this is the only letter from Dr. Gray which I have found amongst the correspondence.—C. L. SHEAR, Washington, D. C.

Utica, March 8th, 1833.

Dear Sir

Your kind and very acceptable letter of Decr. 30th has but just reached me owing to some mistake at the Post office. It reached me just as I had finished my chemical course and was about making arrangements for the Botanical campaign of the ensuing summer.

I thank you for the honor you do me in giving my name to that beautiful Carex I supposed to be *C. livida*. I had supposed it to be an undescribed species for some time. I sent it to Dewey with some other Carices last fall labelled *Carex livida*? He gave no opinion but sent me Wahl & Willd.'s description. The character of the remote or sub-radical lower Pist. spike mentioned by Willd. &c does not exist in our plant. It differs in the mode of growth as well as other

characters from *C. livida* — it is not caespitose. It was found in a sphagnous swamp. June. growing with *C. teretiusecula* and *sterilis*.

Carex alba var. *setif.* Dewey. Dewey informed me a year since he thought it a distinct species.

I shall be able & very happy to furnish you with specimens of most if not all the plants you selected from my list, tho' of some I have not a very good supply now on hand, and I shall either send you a small package in the spring or a very large one in the fall or sooner.— Many of those in the list were not fr. this vicinity. Some were collected in the pines and barrens of N. Jersey in Sept. last.— I am happy to inform you that I intend to spend, if my life is spared, a month or so in the southern part of N. Jersey in Aug. and Sept. next & I mean to explore that country thoroughly. Those you underlined are all found in this vicinity except *Cyperus setifolus*. *Nasturtium natans* De Cand. I discovered in Oneida Lake in 1831 — poor specimens — shall get better ones soon.

I have a Myriophyl. from Niagara falls, which I think is either *M. heterophyllum* or a new one — shall send it to you. I thank you much for your offer to send me a package.— I send a list of my *desiderata* (in Torrey — Flora & Compend.) in N. & Mid. States, doubtful species excluded, by which you will perceive that my Herbm. is yet very imperfect. Of plants of the Southern States I have few indeed. For any plants in the list or what you please I shall be very grateful. I hope I may meet with some of your *desiderata* one of these days — in such case I should consider myself doubly fortunate in being able to supply you and myself. I do not know which would please me most. I have lately received some good plants from Michigan Ter. such as *Carex longirostris* (very old) *Koeleria orthostachya* Tor. *ined.* *Tofieldia glutinosa* Mx. *Houstonia tenerifolia* Nutt? *Enonymus atropurpureus*, *Lythrum hyssopifolium*, *Hydrophyllum appendiculatum*, *Monarda ciliata* var. *Potentilla confertiflora* one specimen (I expect more) &c. all of which will find a place in my next package. I find my ardor for Botany increasing rapidly, and I mean to collect very extensively the ensuing spring and summer.— I have been thinking of attempting the study of the Genus *Salix* — (of which I now know nothing) that is, if you would advise it and think anything can be done with our species. Can you send me authentic specimens of any North American species? —

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You probably have frequent opportunities of sending to New York. A package for me may be left in charge of my friend *Franklin Brown*, Esqr. 27. *Beekman St.* who will have frequent opportunities of forwarding it to me during the months of April & May.—

I will send to you, unless you otherwise order, through the Revd. Mr. Van Vleck. With many thanks for your kindness and good wishes I remain

Dear Sir

Yours very respectfully

Asa Gray.

P. S. Your letter was directed to me as the Revd. A. Gray which was probably a "lapsus pennae," and was the reason why it was mislaid at the Post office and did not reach me in due season. Tho' not in practice I belong to the medical profession.

A. G.

THE YELLOW-FRUITED VARIETY OF THE BLACK RASPBERRY.

W. H. BLANCHARD.

THE interesting yellow-fruited form of *Rubus occidentalis*, L. was well known to our horticulturists long before our botanists knew it, as were several species of blackberries and the hybrid raspberries. Beyond the few very recent specimens mentioned below I have not been able to learn of it in any herbarium.

The first mention I can find of it was in 1833, when William Kenrick,¹ after naming varieties of *Rubus Idaeus*, L., then in cultivation, speaks of the "Black American Raspberry" and "White American Raspberry" as being "quite distinct from the above." I have not searched agricultural and horticultural periodicals but have examined all the books I could find bearing on the subject. It is next mentioned in 1845 by A. J. Downing.² Having noticed the "American Black Raspberry" he mentions this. "The American

¹ New American Orchardist, Boston, 1833, Ed. 1, p. 342.

² Fruit and Fruit Trees of America, N. Y., 1845, Ed. 1, p. 516.